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Agenda item 52 (g)

Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Jamaica:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/235 of 22 December 2004 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Recalling also the development section of the 2005 World Summit outcome,[3]

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing the need for the provision of adequate resources for the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, of the Global Environment Facility,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Spain to host the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in autumn 2007,

Welcoming also the offer made by the Government of Argentina to host the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, in September 2006,

Welcoming further the decision of the Government of Algeria to host a world summit dedicated to the protection of the deserts and combating desertification, in October 2006,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard calls upon the international community to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention to address the causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as the poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. *Welcomes* the outcome of the third and fourth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, particularly the invitation to donor countries, United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, and other development agencies to increase their assistance to the affected developing country parties by making more resources available to them;

4. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

5. *Stresses* the need for all parties to the Convention to demonstrate greater political commitment to the realization of its objectives;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session to conclude with the Council of the Global Environment

[4] A/60/171, sect. II.

Facility a memorandum of understanding on enhanced collaboration between the Convention and the Facility;

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and calls upon Global Environment Facility donors to increase substantially the level of resources to be allocated to the land degradation focal area during the fourth replenishment of the Facility;

8. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility, as a matter of high priority, to make financial resources available for capacity-building activities in affected developing country parties and to facilitate coordination between the Facility and Convention focal points at the country level;

9. *Takes note with interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the follow-up to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, commissioned by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 23/COP.6 of 5 September 2003,[5] and the development of a strategy to foster the implementation of the Convention;

12. *Takes note* of the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and expresses its deep concern about the financial situation of the Convention;

13. *Reiterates* its appeal to all parties to pay promptly and in full their contributions to the core budget, which are due every year on 1 January, and urges all parties that have outstanding contributions to pay these, as soon as possible, in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner;

15. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[6] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

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[5] See ICCD/COP(6)/11/Add.1.

[6] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

16. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[7] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[8] and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

17. *Approves* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention and that of the United Nations for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2011, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session;

18. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the eighth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.